

BULLETIN #128/11

U. S. Will Seek Supreme Court OK Of Wiretap Right

Washington — (AP) — The Nixon Administration will ask the Supreme Court to uphold its claim to wider electronic surveillance without prior court approval in the name of national security.

In the absence of a Supreme Court ruling, the Administration has claimed the President and his attorney general have unlimited power to tap the telephones and bug the premises of individuals suspected of subversion, without getting a judge's permission.

Solicitor Gen. Erwin N. Griswold, announced yesterday the Justice Department will appeal a lower court ruling that would restrict electronic surveillance of citizens in so-called national security cases.

Two district courts have ruled for, and two against, the Government's position.

Meanwhile, the head of the Justice Department's internal security division contended the Government has not only a right but an obligation to gather intelligence on groups or individuals it feels are violence-prone.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert C. Mardian suggested that the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the deaths of four students at Kent State University last year might have been averted had the Government's intelligence been better.